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Hempford

LEDBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1945.



LEDDBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTHFOR THE YEAR1945.STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.Medical Officer of Health:

WILLIAM HOGG, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.S.I.

Clerical Staff:

+ Mrs. O.N. LITTLE. (Resigned 31.10.45).

+ Miss. P.M. RUDHALL. (Resigned 23. 6.45).

+ Miss. D.R. PLASCOTT. (Appointed 1.10.45).

(+ Temporary Appointments).

Telephone - Ross 214.

County Offices,
Alton Street,
Ross-on-Wye.Sanitary Inspector, Sanitary Surveyor & Housing
Designated Officer:

W. PARKS, M.INST.H.& CY.E., M.R.S.I.

Telephone - Ledbury 5.

Council Offices,
Worcester Road,
Ledbury.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1945, which is in accordance with Circular 28/46 of the Ministry of Health.

The year saw the change over from war to peace but has been largely a year of promise rather than of achievement. The health of the inhabitants of the District remained satisfactory throughout the year.

I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the support which the Council has always given me in the discharge of my duties. Also, I have to acknowledge the assistance which has been given me in the preparation of the Report and throughout the year by my colleagues Mr. H.W. Orme, Clerk to the Council, Mr. W. Parks, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. A.T. Thomas, Financial Officer.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

William Hogg

Medical Officer of Health.

March 1946.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:

The Urban District of Ledbury forms a small country town and a centre for the adjacent agricultural district. It lies near the south eastern boundary of the county on the approaches to the Malvern Hills.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	499
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1945)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	975
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£18419
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£72. 6. 3.
Registrar General's Estimated Resident Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3321

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year:

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 15.7

Stillbirths Rate per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still) NIL

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (crude) 12.9

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

				<u>Rate per 1,000</u>	
				<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Total Births.</u>
Heading No. 29	...	Puerperal Sepsis	NIL	NIL	
Heading No. 30	...	Other Puerperal Causes	NIL	NIL	

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age:

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births ... 57.7

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births ... 44.4

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births ... 142.8

Population:

The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population is 3321 which compares with a figure of 3,448 for the previous year. The estimated average number of persons per acre is 6.7 and the average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.4. The average number of inhabited houses per acre is 1.9. The natural increase of the population i.e. the excess of births over deaths for the year was 9.

Births:

A total of 52 live births (31 males and 21 females) were registered, giving a birth rate of 15.7 per thousand of the estimated resident population, compared with 16.1 for England and Wales.

The number of illegitimate live births was 3 (2 males and 1 females) which is 5.7% of the total live births.

Stillbirths:

There were no still births registered, which gives a rate of Nil per thousand of the estimated resident population.

Deaths:

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the Urban District is 43, after deduction of deaths of non-residents and the addition of deaths of residents which occurred outside the District. This gives a crude death rate of 12.9. A Table of Causes of Death according to sex is given at the end of this Report.

Infant Mortality:

There were 3 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an infantile mortality rate of 57.7 per thousand live births.

Cancer Deaths:

There were 9 deaths attributed to all forms of cancer. All were in respect of females.

Deaths from Diarrhoea:

There were no deaths due to diarrhoea in respect to children under the age of 2 years.

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA:Laboratory Facilities:

The Public Health Laboratory at the County Offices, Hereford, now forming part of the E.M.S. Public Health Laboratory Service under the direction of Dr. R. Ewart Jones, continued to provide clinical laboratory facilities.

The following table shows the work carried out at the Laboratory at the request of the Department:-

<u>Specimens Examined.</u>						
Swabs	...	...	...	...	...	8
Sputum	...	...	...	...	...	6
Faeces	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water - Bacteriological Examination	...	...	...	...	...	3

Hospital Facilities:

The Ledbury Cottage Hospital, is a voluntary hospital with X-ray apparatus and surgical theatre, and it provides accommodation for medical and surgical cases.

The Council has accommodation for cases of notifiable disease at the Stretton Sugwas Hospital belonging to the Hereford Rural District Council.

Ambulance Facilities:

A voluntary ambulance is stationed in the town, and is available to the inhabitants as required. The ambulance of the Hereford Rural District Council is available for the transport of infectious disease.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA:Water:

The town is supplied chiefly by means of the Council's

pipd supply, although there are still over 100 private shallow wells in use ad domestic supplies. Immediately before the outbreak of war a survey of these wells was completed and showed that in many instances the water was not fit for potable purposes. This is a matter which the Council will wish to deal with as soon as circumstances permit.

Generally speaking the available supplies are adequate for the present day requirements of the inhabitants. The average daily consumption of water during the year was 63,700 gallons; this figure includes 15,000 galbns per day supplied to a Prisoner of War Camp. The average daily consumption per head of the estimated civilian population was 14.12 gallons. This figure represents a somewhat low figure, and it is likely that some increase will be found to occur in the next few years.

The Council's mains are divided into two systems, the high pressure system supplying the higher part of the town and the low pressure system which supplies the remainder, but there are facilities for connecting the high pressure to the low pressure system.

The water supplied by the Local Authority is derived chiefly from the Conygree Reservoir (100,000 gallons capacity) which is fed from springs originating in the Wenlock Limestone in Conygree Wood. These springs appear to be somewhat shallow, and the yield is subject to variation with the rainfall. This portion of the supply is fed to the mains by gravitation from the reservoir and no pumping plant is required but a chlorination plant is fitted and all water treated before passing into the mains. In dry weather the Conygree supply requires augmentation from the high pressure supply.

The high pressure system depends upon the reservoir (75,000 gallons) situated at Cross Hands and which is fed by pumping water from Massington Wells situated in a depression in Eastnor Parish. An automatic chlorinator is driven from the crankshaff of the pumps. During dry weather some lowering of the rest level in the well is observed.

As the existing sources of supply had been for some time inadequate for the needs of the District, the Council in 1942 was able to arrange with the Malvern Urban District Council for a supply from the Bromsberrow pumping station of that Authority. This supply is brought from Hollybush by a 3" main through the Parish of Eastnor to the H.P. reservoir at Massington. The Bromsberrow supply is derived from boreholes in the New Red Sandstone.

Chlorination of the Council's supplies has been continuous since 1942, and has resulted in the water being rendered sterile as shown on bacteriological examination. Samples are examined from time to time of the chlorinated water but owing to engineering circumstances it is not possible to sample water before chlorination except at the Massington Wells. However, previous to the installation of chlorination, tests showed that the untreated water did give a small bacterial count. Chlorination has no harmful effect upon health and is a valuable protection against water borne disease

In 1944 the Malvern main was extended to Upperfields with the purpose of improving pressure in the higher portion of the town, and it can now be stated that the piped supply is adequate in quantity and quality in the higher parts of the area.

The total number of houses supplied from the Council's mains is 680 but this includes 97 dwellings which are supplied from 26 stand pipes.

The Council's water has no appreciable action upon lead. No samples were taken for chemical examination but three samples were sent for bacteriological examination. These samples failed to show any growth but were, as already stated, samples of the chlorinated water.

Drainage and Sewerage:

During the year new public sewers were laid at the Long Acre Housing site for 81 houses. The old sewerage disposal works seem now to have approached the end of their useful life, in spite of minor improvements carried out during the difficult war years. There can be no doubt that completely new works are necessary and the Council has had a scheme prepared by Mr. W. Parks. The scheme now awaits formal approval by the Ministry of Health.

Public Cleansing:

Public cleansing of streets and collection of salvage continues to be carried out satisfactorily, motor transport having been adopted to replace horse drawn vehicles. A weekly collection of domestic refuse operates throughout the area. Disposal of the collected refuse is by means of tipping.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area:

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	2
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	6
Housing and Nuisances	...	...	...	...	138
Housing Consolidated Regulations 1923					3
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	2
Factories with Mechanical Power				...	43
Factories without Mechanical Power				...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	31
Total ...					<u>234</u>

Notices Issued:

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	24
Statutory re Housing	...	...	...	...	...	--
Statutory under Other Acts	--

Summary of Defects Remedied:

Housing Defects Remedied	79
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Disinfection re Infectious Disease:

Number of Disinfections	2
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SECTION D. HOUSING:

The housing of the inhabitants of the District is not completely satisfactory. A number of dwellings are in a bad state of repair and so deficient in accommodation as to be injurious to health. These dwellings which are occupied entirely by the poorer sections of the community will need to be subject to the provisions of the Housing Act 1935 either by means of extensive repair or by demolition.

The most urgent housing need for the present moment is the erection of new dwellings to ease present conditions of overcrowding. With this object in view, the Council purchased the Long Acre building site and Mr. W. Parks has prepared plans and site for the erection of 81 dwellings. This is the first phase of the post war plan. It will be necessary for further construction to take place before the rehousing of inhabitants of unfit dwellings can be accomplished.

The task is, however, not beyond the capacity of the Local Authority, and when complete Ledbury will be a town of enhanced charm. As a centre for tourists, the town's need for new estates to fit into the

existing surroundings is not without significance. The town is enriched by a number of buildings of considerable historical and architectural interest.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year:

Total number of Dwelling Houses Inspected for Housing Defects (Under P.H. or Housing Acts)	...	21
Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...	26
Number of Dwelling Houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	...	17

Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notice:

Number of Defective Dwelling Houses Rendered Fit in consequence of Informal Action by the Local Authority of their Officers	17
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SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD:

Milk Supply:

There are no Registered Producers of milk in the Area and consequently no inspections of farms or dairies were made.

Eight retailers are registered. No samples were taken for bacteriological examination during the year.

Meat and Other Foods:

It has not been possible to carry out a complete inspection of meat etc., exposed for sale in the District, but a certain amount of this work has been carried out, chiefly in respect of canned foods.

There are two premises Registered for the use of in connection with the sale of ice-cream.

SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE:

Measles began to increase in the District during the last quarter of 1944, and it continued to occur during the first half of the following year. There were 39 notifications received, of which 22 cases occurred during April which was the month of maximum incidence. Almost all the patients were children under 15 years of age. Measles disappeared quite abruptly before the end of May and did not reappear. For the remainder of the year the District was particularly free from infectious disease only one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum and one case of Scarlet Fever being notified.

The baby suffering from Ophthalmia Neonatorum was admitted to the Hereford Eye Hospital under the scheme of the Herefordshire County Council, but no other cases of infectious disease were admitted to hospital.

The incidence of notifiable disease was extraordinarily light and the year 1945, in this respect, was similar to the year 1944. There were no notifications of diphtheria received.

I am satisfied that the efficiency of notification is very high and my thanks are due to the medical practitioners in the District for the willing co-operation and prompt notifications which they have always given me.

Below I append three tables giving the incidence of notifiable disease in the District during the year:-

Notifiable Disease during Year 1945.

Disease.	Cases Notified.	Confirmed Cases.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Whooping Cough	5	5	-	-
Measles	39	39	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	1	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	1	-

Analysis of Total Notified Cases According to Age.

Disease.	Under 1	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	Totals
Whooping Cough	-	2	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Measles	-	5	5	2	4	16	4	2	1	-	-	-	39
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	1	7	6	2	4	19	4	2	1	-	-	-	46

Notifications Received According to Quarters.

Disease	1st. Quarter	2nd. Quarter	3rd. Quarter	4th. Quarter	Year.
Whooping Cough	-	5	-	-	5
Measles	15	24	-	-	39
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	1	-	1

Scabies:

No cases of scabies have been brought to my notice during the year, but this does not necessarily mean that the disease did not occur. Notification is not compulsory and I consider that it is unlikely that the disease was entirely absent under the prevailing conditions, although the incidence has tended to fall, very largely due to the improved knowledge of the public of this disease.

Diphtheria Immunisation:

This work was continued throughout the year by the Department and by the medical practitioners. The assistance which the Council receives from the practitioners in this respect is very considerable and I feel that the Council would wish me to formally acknowledge this co-operation. It is a fact that cannot be overlooked that the family doctor is able to get children immunised at an early age, and this is very necessary if full protection against diphtheria is to be obtained.

No case of diphtheria occurred during the year, this suggests that the policy of the Council for encouraging the immunisation of children at an early age is not without some measure of success.

The results for the year are contained in the following table:-

Number of Children who had completed full
course of Immunisation during year 1945.

Age at 31.12.45 i.e. Born in year	Under 1 1945	1 1944	2 1943	3 1942	4 1941	5 - 9 1936-40	10 - 14 1931-35	Total under 15
Number Immunised	1	22	7	-	-	1	-	31
Estimated mid-year population 1945	277					512		789

No post Schick Testing was carried out as this is not possible under present conditions.

Tuberculosis:

At the end of 1944 there were 27 cases of tuberculosis on the register, 24 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary. During 1945, 12 cases were added to the register, 11 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary, of these 8 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary were with respect to new cases. Five cases were removed from the register, 4 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary, and on the 31st December, 1945, 34 cases remained on the register, 31 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	1
35+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Causes of DEATHS. during year 1945.

No.	Cause.	Male.	Female.	Total.
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	-	1	1
9	Influenza	1	-	1
13	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Uterus	-	2	2
14	Cancer of Stomach or Duodenum	-	1	1
15	Cancer of Breast	-	1	1
16	Cancer of all other Sites	-	5	5
18	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	5	4	9
19	Heart Disease	3	3	6
20	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	1	1
21	Bronchitis	2	-	2
22	Pneumonia	1	2	3
23	Other Respiratory Diseases	2	-	2
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	-	1
26	Appendicitis	1	-	1
27	Other Digestive Diseases	-	1	1
28	Nephritis	2	-	2
31	Premature Birth	2	-	2
35	Violent Causes	-	1	1
36	All Other Causes	1	-	1
All Causes		21	22	43

